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H. M. Lee  
PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 03384.0352-01000

7-10-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Richard VALLEE )  
 )  
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
 )  
Filed: April 6, 2000 ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
 )  
For: INVERSE MULTIPLEXING )  
DIGITAL DATA )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of this application, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 6, and add new claims 8-13 as follows:

8. For use with inverse multiplexing digital data over a connection having a plurality of transmission links, the data containing a series of ATM data cells, a method of determining connectivity of the transmission links comprising:

transmitting from a first node a cell containing test information over one of the transmission links;

receiving at the first node at least one cell containing test information over at least one of the remaining transmission links; and

B1  
Cont.